The expenditure works out to 22.79% of the approved outlay.

(b) Reasons for shortfall in expenditure are given below:—

Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)

(i) Delay in receipt of claims for Belt Reconditioning Plant (BRP) in case of mine-II stage-II project.

(ii) Delay in claim in respect of foreign super vision charges, delay in supply of NLC's procurement items and delay in taking up of rejuvenation of spreaders work.

(iii) Delay in recommissioning of units III, V and VI of life extension programme of power plant.

(iv) Delay in awarding Letter of Award (LOA) for main plant packages of Thermal Power Station-I expansion project.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)

In case of SCCL, the plan expenditure remained low due to non-procurement of equipment for overburden removal and longwall package as well as due to frequent strikes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Proposal for infrastructure status to coal industry

472. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give infrastructure status to the coal industry;

(b) if so, the status of this proposal;

(c) whether such a move will benefit the public in any way; and

(d) steps proposed to improve overall functioning of the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has not agreed to treat investments in coal sector as infrastructure activity. However, the Government has a proposal for extending concessions in order to make investment in coal sector more attractive, on the same lines as what is extended to infrastructure sector.

(d) The Government is considering to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow any Indian company to mine coal and lignite not only for captive consumption but also for sale. The basic objective behind this move is to augment investment in coal mining, increase availability of coal and to improve its efficiency. Thereby greater consumer satisfaction will ensue.

मध्य प्रदेश में साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कोयला खान में दुर्घटना

473. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश स्थित साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कोयला खान में हुए हादसे में कितने लोगों की मृत्यु हुई तथा कितने लोग घायल हुए; और

(ख) कोयला खान में हुए हादसे का कारण क्या था तथा मृतक एवं घायलों के परिवारों/आश्रितों के कल्याण के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) और (ख) कोल इंडिया लि० (को०इं०लि०) द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार 1997 के दौरान (अक्तूबर, 1997 तक) साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (सा०ई०को०लि०) की कोयला खानों में हुई दुर्घटना में मारे गए तथा घायल व्यक्तियों का कारण-वार ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

कारण	मृतकों की सं०	गंभीर रूप से घायलों की सं०
छत/दीवाल का गिरना	5	12
परिवहन मशीनरी	6	9
परिवहन मशीनरी से भिन्न मशीनरी	—	1

कारण	मृतकों की सं०	गंभीर रूप से घायलों की सं०
विस्फोटक	—	1
बिजली	—	1
व्यक्ति/उपकरण के गिरने से	2	2
गैस/जल प्लावन से	2	—
विविध	—	1
जोड़:	15	27

घायलों के मामले में मुआवजे की राशि का निर्धारण कामगार मुआवजा अधिनियम, 1923 में निहित प्रावधानों के अनुसार किया जाता है तथा यह कामगार की अपंगता के स्तर, आयु तथा उसकी मासिक आय के आधार पर निर्धारित किया जाता है। मृत्यु के मामले में अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के अनुसार मुआवजे की राशि परिगणित करने के अलावा कोल इंडिया लि० मृतक कामगार के आश्रितों को निम्नलिखित राशि का भुगतान किया जाता है:—

(i) अन्त्येष्टि आदि के लिए अनुग्रह राशि—रु० 1000/-

(ii) एन०सी०डब्लू०ए०-IV के अनुसार अनुग्रह राशि —रु० 15000/-

(iii) एन०सी०डब्लू०ए० V के अनुसार —रु० 20000/- जीवन बीमा योजना के अंतर्गत राशि

इसके अलावा, मृतकों के आश्रितों में से एक सदस्य को रोजगार की भी पेशकश की जाती है। विकल्प के रूप में रोजगार के बदले में विधवा/महिला आश्रित को 3000/- रु० की मासिक पेंशन का भुगतान 60 वर्ष की आयु पूरी करने तक अथवा मृत्यु/पुनः विवाह, इनमें से जो भी पहले हो, तक किया जाता है।

Compiction of coal projects

474. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had advised the Member Secretary, Planning Commission to identify hurdles in completion of some coal projects;

(b) if so, what was the specific scope of enquiry and the findings thereof;

(c) whether any responsibilities have been fixed for delays in completion of coal projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures contemplated for facilitating scheduled completion of coal projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. Under the directives of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI), in July, 1997, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, with Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Chairman, Railway Board as its Members, to consider among other things, measures for removal of bottlenecks and accelerating the progress of implementation of on-going coal projects in order to reduce the gap in production and demand envisaged at the end of the Ninth Plan period.

(b) Arising out of the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry of Coal carried out a project-by-project exercise to explore the possibilities for incremental coal production during the Ninth and Tenth Plan periods. The Ministry concluded that an incremental production of 11 million tonnes of coal from CIL sources is possible during the Ninth Plan over and above the Ninth Plan target of 303 million tonnes if additional resources were made available to CIL and acquisition of forest land involved in some projects is expedited.

(c) to (e) These issues were not covered under the Terms of Reference of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission.